

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

25X1X

25X1A

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 5 to 15 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1A

DATE PREPARED 31 July 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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25X1X

1. Work on the runway at Merseburg airfield continued between 5 and 15 June 1951. Excavation was being done on the last 400 to 450 meters of the western end of the runway. The eastern strip of the runway was provided with mats and covered with a layer of concrete about 15 cm thick. * The strip adjacent and west of it was filled with a 40-cm gravel layer. In about the middle of the concreted section there was a stripe about 1 meter wide on which narrow-gauge field rails were laid. The rails led to the concrete mixing machines. Concrete pipes about 3 meters long and 50 cm in diameter which arrived recently were stored north of the runway. They were probably drainage pipes.
2. The intended construction on the landing field had not started. It was observed that the strip of land for the taxiway was plowed wider than previously planned and that the entire area south of the runway was being plowed and graded and partially excavated to a depth up to 60 cm. The Soviet soldiers who worked there used ten Soviet bulldozers. It was the opinion of source that this work seemed to be incomprehensible because the underground water level at the field was rather high. For this same reason, work had to be stopped at the fuel dump north of the firing range. The holes dug there were flooded. The earth that was previously removed had been piled up there by the Germans because of the high subsoil water level. About 60 to 70 Soviet soldiers, who were engaged in grading work, were quartered in about 20 tents in the vicinity of the firing range. Ten officers wearing blue epaulets did surveying work.
3. Bauunion Mittelland Halle/Saale had the contract for the work until March 1951 when Bauunion Naumburg, also called Bauunion Naumburg Saale, took over. An architect who was engaged in planning work said that the construction management was quartered in the Schkopau Buna Plant.
4. After 10 June, many laborers were drafted again by the Merseburg labor office for work at the field. About 1,800 workers were employed. An employee of the Merseburg Lower Court said that, since March 1951, the entire area of the field was registered as property of a Soviet major and valued at 600,000 DM east.

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- * Comment. For status of work being done on the runway, see Annex. According to this report, construction progresses rapidly. The date for the intended completion of the runway is not known.

1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.

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